

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

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R 121142Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4480

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IR CH

SUBJ: HIGH LEVEL PRC DELEGATION VISITS IRAN

REF TEHRAN 7821

1. WHAT WAS OFFICIALLY BILLED AS A "HIGH LEVEL" DELEGATION FROM THE PRC ARRIVED IN TEHRAN ON SEPTEMBER 2 FOR A SIX DAY VISIT AT THE INVITATION OF THE IMPERIAL ORGANIZATION FOR SOCIAL SERVICES (IOSS). CHINESE DELEGATION WAS LED BY WANG PING-NAN, PRESIDENT OF THE CHINESE PEOPLES' ASSOCIATION FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

2. WHILE IN IRAN THE VISITORS EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH A NUMBER OF IRANIAN OFFICIALS (INCLUDING THE SHAH, EMPRESS, PRIME MINISTER AMOUZEGAR AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS MAHNAZ AFKHAM), TOURED DEVELOPMENT SITES, SOCIAL WELFARE FACILITIES AND VISITED TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AT ISFAHAN AND SHIRAZ. DURING AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH, WANG (ACCORDING TO PEKING'S NCNA), "EXPLAINED THE EXCELLENT SITUATION IN CHINA SINCE THE

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SMASHING OF THE "GANG OF FOUR". AT A DINNER HOSTED BY ABDOL REZA ANSARI, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF IOSS, WANG REFERRED TO "AGE OLD" TIES BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND THE IRANIAN PEOPLES AND ADDED THAT "THE PRC IS HAPPY TO SEE THAT IRAN HAS MADE UNTIRING EFFORTS TO DEFEND STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, AND OPPOSE THE EXPANSION AND INTERFERENCE OF BIG POWER HEGOMINISM".

DELEGATION LEFT ON SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 8 FOR SOMALIA, NEXT STOP ON THREE NATION TOUR WHICH ALSO INCLUDES IRAQ.

3. COMMENT: DELEGATION, WHICH IS SECOND PRC GROUP HERE THIS SUMMER (PRC TRADE GROUP JUST CONCLUDED SIX WEEK VISIT--SEE REFTEL), RECEIVED NORMAL PRESS PUBLICITY IN FARSI AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE DAILIES. VISIT WAS ARRANGED THROUGH OFFICE OF PRINCESS ASHRAF, (WHO HAS BEEN TO PRC THREE TIMES), AND MINISTRY OF COURT. IT WAS ONE OF CONTINUING BILATERAL EXCHANGES WHICH HAVE GENERALLY STRESSED CULTURAL TIES AND IMPLICITLY UNDERLINED CONCERN OF BOTH COUNTRIES WITH THEIR SOVIET NEIGHBOR. IN CONTRAST TO RECENT PRC TRADE MISSION WHICH REPORTEDLY SIGNED SEVERAL NEW TRADE AGREEMENTS, WANG MISSION PRODUCED NO FINAL COMMUNIQUE OR AGREEMENTS. MFA (EAST ASIA DEPT) SOURCE COMMENTED THAT NO AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN ANTICIPATE "AT THIS TIME" BUT THAT VISIT HAD GONE WELL AND THE CHINESE "WERE VERY HAPPY TO BE INVITED TO IRAN".

4. FYI: WANG PING-NAN APPEARS TO BE FORMER PRC AMBASSADOR IN WARSAW WHO REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN IN OBSCURITY FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. ABDOL REZA ANSARI, A VETERAN CIVIL SERVANT, IS A FORMER MINISTER OF LABOR AND ALSO FORMER MINISTER OF INTERIOR WHO FOR THE PAST EIGHT YEARS HAS BEEN SERVING ON VARIOUS SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEES UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF PRINCESS ASHRAF. IOSS IS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LARGEST SINGLE WELFARE ORGANIZATION IN IRAN, INVOLVED IN HUNDREDS OF PROJECTS IN MEDICINE, HEALTH SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICE. IT WAS FOUNDED BY THE SHAH IN 1947 "TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF HEALTH AND EDUCATION OF THE POORER CLASSES OF SOCIETY." END COMMENT.
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